

## "Joy in the Midst of Death" Philippians 1:19-30

"The statistics on death are quite impressive – one out of one people die." George Bernard Shaw.

"We must all die – wise and foolish alike." Ecclesiastes 2:16

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." Ecclesiastes 3:1

"A wise person thinks about death." Ecclesiastes 7:4

"Sorrow is better than laughter, it may sadden your face but it sharpens your understanding."  
Ecclesiastes 7:3

In secular culture, death is physical, unsearchable and the end.

"In our hearts we felt the sentence of death. This happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead." 2 Corinthians 1:9

Principle: We live in a culture that lives for today, for instant gratification. What I think about eternity affects the way I live in the temporary.

Am I looking at life from the down side? The inside? Or the upside?

"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23

Options for eternity:

1. Universalism – everyone dies and goes to heaven
2. Annihilationism – everyone ceases to exist
3. Reincarnation – you die and get a second chance
4. Purgatory – when you die you go to a place where you suffer to pay God back for your sin
5. Adventism – upon death you go into an unconscious state

"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

"....May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_.

Most Americans would say:

1. For me to live is possessions
2. For me to live is pleasure
3. For me to live is power

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13, 14

How do I prepare to die?

1. Trust in Jesus Christ

2. Invest in eternity

"Lord Jesus, for too long I've kept you out of my life. I want to live for you so I can be with you when I die. I admit that I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself. I repent of my sins by changing my mind about the way I've been living. I believe and gratefully receive you as my Risen Savior.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to earth. With all my heart I confess that you are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and that you rose from the dead on the third day. Thank you for bearing my sins and giving me the gift of eternal life. I want to cross over from death to life. I ask you now by faith to come into my life so that for me to live will be Christ and to die will be gain. Amen."